



Guns and marijuana

This is the 1,000 pounds of bundled marijuana and some of the weapons seized June 17, culminating a DPS investigation that started in March with the seizure of a \$750 money order. In serving a search warrant at a south Phoenix residence, officers also dismantled a chop shop operation. See story page 3.

LEMSC approves a proposed sworn pay plan for fiscal year 2006, effective July 2

During its June 17 meeting, the Law Enforcement Merit System Council approved a proposed sworn pay plan for fiscal year 2006, effective July 2.

"The new salary levels include the use of vacancy savings generated by holding 25 currently vacant officer positions open," said Phil Case, DPS comptroller. "By doing so, the Department will be able to increase officer-maximum pay by \$1,816 above what would have been possible had we relied solely on the funding increases provided by the legislature."

In addition, Case said officer-midpoint pay and motor carrier investigator compensation were also increased by \$908 using these vacancy savings.

"It should be noted that only the officer and motor carrier investigator classifications

are benefitting from the vacancy savings since the funding is generated by holding officer positions open," the DPS comptroller said. "It is the Department's intent that by increasing officer pay in this manner, we will be able to hire and retain more officers for our current vacant positions."

Case added that civilian pay issues at DPS are being reviewed as well with meetings scheduled to address these concerns.

Salaries approved by the Merit System Council during its meeting include: lieutenant/aviation administrator, \$85,107; sergeant II, \$69,397; sergeant I, \$60,053; officer, \$56,410 (maximum), \$47,764 (midpoint) and \$39,118 (entry); rotary wing pilot II, \$58,740; rotary wing pilot I and fixed wing pilot I, \$48,116; motor carrier supervisor, \$60,053; and motor carrier investigator, \$47,764.

DPS' budget for 2006 an enticing package, but not fully-filled pie

Although the \$166 million budget approved by the Arizona state legislature for fiscal year 2006 isn't creating much excitement, DPS Director Roger Vanderpool and Comptroller Phil Case both agree that it's an enticing package, just not a fully-filled pie.

"Overall, I think it is a pretty decent budget," Vanderpool said. "Of course, I am hopeful that next year's budget will be better. It's something we certainly can work with, and I compliment the previous executive staff for their work and involvement."

"There were no glaring surprises, and I believe it provides us with an opportunity to spend our money and expend our resources prudently. I don't have a problem spending money as long as it is spent wisely and invested in the right things."

Case also agrees this year's budget process was a "pretty decent year."

"In my seven years at DPS, we have never received all we have asked for and we probably never will; that's the nature of the beast," the comptroller said.

"We have some continuing challenges such as developing approaches to improve employee pay and staffing. We had some successes in staffing within the Highway Patrol and the Crime Lab and this needs to continue. But, we also need to create ways to satisfy other issues throughout the Department."

Case said the exact figure for DPS' budget has not been settled and probably won't be finalized until later this month after the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) distributes the remaining funding to be shared by all state agencies.

"At this juncture, we don't officially know precisely how much money the legis-

From Director
Roger L. Vanderpool's



Vantage Point

The core value committee, consisting of employees from throughout the Department and the various employee associations, met July 6. Although their first meeting was low profile, the responsibilities this group faces are enormous and vital to DPS' future.

This group is tasked with establishing "core values" for the agency. It is important for us to determine and establish, as a department, those values that we will hold near and dear. It is only after core values have been established that we can hold ourselves and others accountable for what matters most – what we stand for.

We must identify in common language what these values mean to us, not to attorneys, but to those at DPS who will be expected to follow them and be held accountable because of them.

During these meetings, committee members will also examine the Department's missions and statements, making adjustments if necessary. They may also rewrite the entire document to ensure that it contains the components of the Department's stated values.

By doing this, we will eventually have a clear road map of purpose and how we will pursue this purpose.

Once the committee completes its work, this will be our image of what the Department will be like when the purpose and values are fulfilled. These statements will become the creed of every DPS employee and officer. It will be one more step in establishing the Arizona Department of Public Safety as the number one law enforcement agency in the state.

Various new laws to impact the way DPS does business

A bill requiring moving vehicles to change lanes if possible in order to give a parked police vehicle on the side of the road more "breathing room" was among many pieces of legislation approved by the Arizona State Legislature that should impact the Department beginning Aug. 12.

The emergency "vehicle right-of-way" legislation, also known as the "move over law," will likely provide DPS officers who are conducting traffic stops on narrow highway or freeway shoulders with a bit more distance from passing traffic, said Lt. Brian Wilcox, the Department's legislative liaison.

The law ultimately requires passing traffic to make a lane change into a lane not adjacent to that of a parked police vehicle that has its emergency lights activated. Of course, the new law will only require motorists to make a lane change if traffic conditions permit and if changing lanes can be done safely.

House Bill (HB) 2469 also states that motorists who encounter a moving police vehicle with its lights activated must stay at least 300 feet behind that vehicle until it moves to the right lane or curb.

Along with this new statute aimed at increasing officer safety, Wilcox said other legislative actions of prime interest to the Department include:

- Legislation (SB1042) that establishes a process by which all DPS employees can "meet and confer" with DPS management to improve working conditions.

- Legislation (SB1113, Chapter 51) that changes the time line governing the service of and public access to search warrants.

- SB1367 which allows a member of the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System who has 20 years of service and who has been called to active military duty to join the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROPS).

- Expansion of legislation (SB1254, SB1420) relating to when a police officer must impound or immobilize the vehicles of those who are breaking the law or have committed a crime.

- HB2450 that allows DPS to issue certificates of firearms proficiency to retired peace officers according to qualifications established by the Arizona Peace Officer Standards and Training Board.

- Legislation (SB1375) that establishes a reverse deferred retirement option plan for public safety personnel with at least 20 years of service, entitling participants to a lump sum benefit in addition to their normal retirement benefit when they actually retire.

- Expansion of HB262 creating a two-year extension to a provision allowing Medicare eligible, state-retirement plan enrolled retirees who live in certain rural areas to receive a subsidy for health

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Roger L. Vanderpool, Director
Jim Jertson, Publications Support Specialist, jjertson@azdps.gov

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Director elevates two DPS sergeants to the rank of lieutenant

Pete Borquez and Kirk Bryce became the Department's newest lieutenants during promotional ceremonies June 13 in front of the state headquarters building in Phoenix.

With their promotions, Borquez assumes responsibilities of District 6 commander in Casa Grande while Bryce becomes commander of Flagstaff Criminal Investigations.

For Borquez, it was the latest promotion in a law enforcement career which began when he became a cadet officer in September 1987. After graduating from the Arizona Law Enforcement Training Academy (ALETA), Borquez drew the Phoenix area for his first assignment as a Highway Patrol officer.

As an officer, the Phoenix native completed undertakings with Phoenix Metro Motors, Governor's Security, GITEM and Media Relations.

In 1997, he promoted to sergeant and was assigned to Casa Grande, which was followed by assignments to the Licensing Unit, GITEM and the Special Investigations Unit.

Following the 15-day Lewis Prison hostage situation in January 2004, he was reassigned to the Special Operations Unit.

During his DPS career, he has received a Director's Unit Citation and numerous letters of commendation from the agency.

For his role as a tactical negotiator during the Lewis Prison situation, Borquez recently received the Department's Meritorious Service Award. He also was the recipient of a Meritorious Service Award from the Phoenix Police Department in 1994 for helping capture a documented gang-member who shot a Phoenix police officer.

In addition to DPS, Borquez served 20 years with the U.S. Army reserves and is currently



mentally pursuing a degree in business administration.

Bryce's career with the Department began in April 1990 as a cadet officer at ALETA. After graduating from ALETA, he drew Kayenta as his first appointment as a Highway Patrol officer. In 1991, he transferred to Winslow and then to Flagstaff in 1993.

While in Flagstaff, he spent seven years as a member of the Special Operations Unit and two years with the state Gang Task Force in Flagstaff.

He promoted to sergeant in November 1999, assigned to Tucson Narcotics. Bryce, a Benson native who was reared in Pima, transferred to the Southern Critical Incident

Team in 2002 and then to Flagstaff Narcotics.

During his career, he has received two Director's Unit Citations, one in 1995 as a member of the Special Operations Unit and another in 2004 as a member of Northern Narcotics.

Bryce earned an associate's degree from Eastern Arizona College, Thatcher, and a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice from Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff.

Bryce, who attended the DEA Drug Unit Commanders Academy in Quantico, Va., also has received a certified public manager certification from Arizona State University.

Investigation yields 1,000 pounds of pot and a cache of guns

An investigation that began in March with a \$750 money order culminated June 17 when officers assigned to the Financial Crimes Unit at DPS raided a south Phoenix residence and seized some 1,000 pounds of marijuana and a cache of firearms.

Case Agent Tim Mason of the Financial Crimes Unit told Phoenix-area media at a June 17 news conference that at least seven people were arrested in connection with the investigation and that the possibility existed for even more arrests.

While executing warrants on the property located in the 4500 block of West Southern Avenue, detectives also came across a "chop" shop and many neglected animals.

Mason said some 40 vehicles were also found at the site with at least eight of those being identified as "stolens."

At least one vehicle had a hidden compartment while others were in the process of being fabricated to transport marijuana and cocaine to New York and drug money back to Phoenix where it would eventually head into Mexico to fund the next large shipment into the United States.

"I can say with a certain degree of accuracy that they were going to fabricate false compartments within these vehicles which would be used to distribute illegal drugs and potentially transport the proceeds back to Arizona and Mexico," Mason said.

Mason said the contraband probably had a street market value somewhere between \$400,000 to \$500,000.

"We were concerned to find submachine guns, a bullet proof vest, several AK47s, assault rifles (some with bayonets) and nu-

merous handguns at the south Phoenix residence," Mason said. "We know these people don't want contact with police. But at the same time, they want to protect their marijuana from other rival drug dealers. That's why they have such an arsenal."

"This is very disconcerting for the safety of our law enforcement officers, and also for those innocent residents of the neighborhood."

Mason said officers also found 16 horses, 40 goats, six cows and 20 chickens on the property which probably had been used as a narcotics stash house since February 2004.

"All animals had been seriously neglected and hadn't been cared for in quite some time," Mason said, adding that the animals were being taken to the Arizona Humane Society and a state livestock group.

Two DPS bomb canines die within one month of each other

Two DPS canines, both specializing in explosives detection, died within one month of each other from unrelated and unexpected health problems.

"Barry," a 6-year-old Belgian Malinois, died May 17 at his handler's home in Tucson. He had been assigned to DPS for almost three years. "Alina," a 3-year-old Belgian Malinois, died June 17 at an emergency animal clinic in Phoenix. She had only been assigned to DPS for five months.

During his short time with the agency, Barry and his handler, Officer Marty Lepird, helped insure the safety of numerous venues in Arizona prior to their use by high-profile political figures.

The duo conducted protective "bomb sweeps" of buildings and facilities in Arizona prior to their use by important figures such as President George W. Bush, Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano, Senator John F. Kerry, and foreign dignitaries such as Lee Hsien Loong, the prime minister of Singapore.

Barry and Lepird also helped protect thousands of innocent people from the threat of hidden bombs at large-scale events such as the annual Tempe Block Party.

An necropsy performed on the dog following his death determined that he died from a somewhat mysterious health condition known as "bloat." The deadly and fast-striking health condition often effects large canines with deep, narrow chests by causing their stomachs to suddenly fill with air.

Lepird, like other DPS canine

handlers, was trained several years ago to recognize the signs and symptoms of bloat.

Barry, however, displayed no signs and symptoms of the condition the day before he was found unconscious in his kennel by Lepird.

When Lepird discovered his partner dead on the morning of May 17, Lepird said he was heartbroken and shocked.

"Besides being a very talented and hardworking dog, Barry was a great friend to me and my family; his death was just so unexpected," Lepird said. "The day before we were working together as a team like we always do and the next morning he was gone. It's just very hard to comprehend and accept."

Alina, who was assigned to DPS Officer Chris Hemmen, had only been assigned to DPS for five months before her death June 17.

Despite her short time with the agency, she and Hemmen were able to work a number of high-profile events together, including a mid-May bomb scare at the State Capitol.

Hemmen first became concerned about Alina June 17 after returning from vacation and picking the dog up from a kennel in Phoenix. After retrieving the dog,

Hemmen realized she wasn't feeling very well and became alarmed as her condition worsened throughout the day.

He took her to an emergency veterinary clinic where a veterinarian discovered during surgery that the dog had pancreatic cancer.

The cancer, a common form of illness in young dogs, had spread throughout the canine's organs. Because the cancer was had spread throughout her body, Hemmen and the veterinarian decided to put the dog to sleep.

Hemmen was also deeply upset by the dog's unexpected death.

"The dog was so young and we never really had a chance to form a close working relationship because she was so new to DPS," Hemmen said. "I can only imagine how many good times we would have had together and how much work we could have accomplished for the people of Arizona."

Hemmen was also saddened because Alina's death brought back painful memories of an incident in August of 1999 that resulted in the death of his first DPS canine, "Ringo."

Ringo, a 4-year old Belgian Malinois, became the first DPS canine in the history of the agency's program to die in the line of duty when he was struck by a passing tractor-trailer Aug. 9 in a construction zone south of Holbrook.

Although the death of Barry and Alina proved to be very sad for Hemmen and Lepird, both officers will eventually receive new dogs. In fact, Lepird already has another DPS dog living at his home.

This dog, whose name is Boyca, specializes in narcotics detection and has been working with Lepird for more than six years.

As a result of these recent deaths, DPS has only one other bomb dog assigned to the agency.



Alina

Barry

DPS' bomb squad helps defuse May 16 bomb scare at Capitol

Members of DPS' bomb squad played an important role in defusing a May 16 bomb scare that emptied the state House, Senate, and Department of Economic Security buildings.

The threat began at about 4 p.m. when a Senate page discovered a suspicious package near the state Senate building. The package, marked "bomb" and "6 p.m.," was left near a tree some 100 feet from the southeast corner of the Senate Building.

After arriving at the scene, DPS bomb technicians used a remote-controlled robot to examine the package. The package, wrapped in tape, was rendered safe after DPS bomb technicians deployed the robot's water cannon.

In addition to various buildings in the area, several adjacent streets were closed during the threat, including a section of 17th Avenue as well as Adams and Washington streets. Bomb dogs searched the House and

Senate buildings during the incident, but no additional packages were found.

Writing on the package and a description of the person seen in the area eventually led investigators to the arrest of a suspect, a homeless person living in the area.

In addition to DPS and the Capitol Police Department, the Phoenix Police Department also assisted in the investigation.

Budget ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

lature has appropriated for DPS," Case said. "The \$166 million, which is about \$3 million more than last year, does not include several very important pieces, such as civilian salary adjustments, health insurance adjustments and employer retirement contributions adjustments. We are awaiting word from the JLBC."

Civilian employees within the agency are expected to receive the general state salary adjustment of 1.7 percent which represents no real increase in take home pay because the employee retirement contribution rate is increasing 1.7 percent.

Vanderpool believes the 1.7-percent increase is "sad."

"With insurance and pension increases, most civilian employees will lose money," the director said. "This is very disappointing. This is one area we must address. We always have to be mindful that DPS functions like a three-legged stool and that a large part of our agency doesn't wear guns and badges. This agency cannot survive without civilian personnel supporting our law enforcement operations. We need to do better next year."

Case said the Department is optimistic that the legislature will fully fund the matching 1.7-percent employer portion of the retirement increases for civilians and the "very dramatic" 11.3 percent increase for the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS), the retirement system for sworn employees.

"The PSPRS increase was shocking," the comptroller explained. "We knew that it would go up because of demographic factors and, most importantly, stock market performances in recent years. But, we didn't imagine that the level of increase would be 11.3 percent."

"Last year, I think the combined total employer contribution level was 8.31 percent. This fiscal year, it is skyrocketing to 19.61 percent."

As for health insurance, Case said the Department has been operating under the assumption that all state agencies would receive an increase for health insurance that would offset both the employee and the employer increases so that employees would be held harmless. But recent indications from the Department of Administration suggests that this may not be the case.

"Currently, there is some question as to whether the final JLBC appropriation will cover the full health insurance increase," Case explained.

Despite these setbacks, Case said the

Department is very pleased with several aspects of the budgetary package. These achievements include:

- \$4.3 million for sworn pay adjustments;
- \$500,000 increase in its fuel budget;
- \$3.5 million for additional Highway Patrol staffing;
- \$1.1 million for additional crime laboratory staffing;
- \$200,000 which will increase various annual uniform allowances;
- \$6.7 million for Highway Patrol vehicles;
- \$3 million for officer safety equipment;
- \$3.9 million to restore GITEM to pre-2000 levels.

"The \$4.3 million in sworn salary adjustment money is one of our greatest successes for 2006," Case said. "Combined with the pay plan approved by the Law Enforcement Merit System Council last month, which combined some vacancy savings monies with the legislative pay adjustment, sworn salaries will increase an average of 7.1 percent."

Vanderpool said the \$4.3 million is a good start, "but that's exactly what it is, a start. We need to move from there."

Although the Department requested a \$1 million increase in its fuel budget, it wasn't forthcoming. The \$500,000, however, is a substantial increase over last year, Case said.

"If fuel prices remain relatively the same, I don't believe the \$500,000 will be enough. But if they do, we won't be as impacted as we were by last year's sudden and steep increases," Case said. "Fortunately, fuel prices have settled down during the past few months, but no one knows what fiscal year '06 holds for us."

Vanderpool emphasized that the Department must continue to remain fuel conscious and "save wherever and whenever we can."

The \$3.5 million for Highway Patrol staffing provides 14 new officer and two new sergeant positions and funding for 12 vacant but previously unfunded positions.

"This is excellent," Vanderpool said. "In the past, the legislature has given us positions but little funding to go with these positions. This is a really good start."

The \$1.1 million for crime lab staffing funds 11 new criminalist positions to address workload increases.

"These positions are desperately needed and was one of the Department's priorities," Case said. "Crime Lab positions are viewed as very important to the entire criminal justice community. The Crime Lab work load in each of the past five years has grown at about nine percent. Eleven new positions represents roughly a 9-percent increase in staff. So with everything being equal, this just offsets the growth between

now and next year."

The \$200,000 uniform allowance increase is the first DPS personnel have received in about seven years.

With this, uniform allowance for officers will increase to \$1,000 per year, up from \$792. Non-uniformed officer allowance (Criminal Investigations personnel) will increase to \$425 per year from \$336 while civilians who qualify will see an increase to \$250 per year, a \$58 spike.

The \$6.7 million for Highway Patrol vehicles should provide for at least 180 new vehicles which will help the Department maintain its fleet at current levels. Each of the new 180 vehicles will arrive with fire-suppression systems, the director said.

A pair of senate bills also reflects positively on the DPS budget.

Senate Bill 1160 provides DPS with \$3 million to purchase ballistic vests, Tasers and other safety equipment.

"The Department and associated employee groups worked with Sen. Jim Waring in obtaining this legislation," Vanderpool said, adding that the Department expects to work with employee groups and line-level employees to determine what safety equipment should be purchased beyond the Tasers and vests.

"This is a substantial amount of funding that should greatly improve the safety of our employees as well as our bottom line budget as we will no longer have to divert money to safety issues from other areas," Case remarked.

The second part of the bill is the \$3.9 million for GITEM.

"The purpose here is to bring GITEM back to a level approaching what it was in its heyday," Case said. "This money will go to CI who will develop a plan to attract other agencies back into the task force. It does, however, require a 25-percent funding match from other participating agencies should they decide to participate."

Although it was a "pretty good budget year," Case said many of the same issues will continue to face the Department during next year's budgeting process.

"We also will have to confront challenges associated with our capital investment building needs throughout Arizona," Case said.

As for now, Case is busy putting together the 2007 fiscal year proposal, due in September.

"We will continue to hit on some of the themes we have talked about while trying to manage what dollars we do have in the best ways possible, again focusing on providing a quality product," Case said.



Deployed

As a member of the U.S. Air Force reserves, Brenda Tonn, an audio/video forensics analyst with the Rocky Mountain Information Network (RMIN), was deployed to Qatar with her unit. Brenda left for her assignment in May and is expected to return in October. Tonn, who has been with RMIN since November 1999, is a chief master sergeant with the Air Force.

Officer Terry Cirre's persistence pays off

Terry Cirre just doesn't give up.

The DPS Highway Patrol officer was working Interstate 40 in the Kingman area June 15 when he received notification of an armed carjacking at an area gas station some 20 miles from his location.

A short time after the 6 p.m. carjacking, the suspect vehicle passed Cirre on I-40 near Kingman. The Duty Office said Cirre then attempted to overtake the vehicle but the driver failed to yield with pursuit speeds eventually topping more than 100 mph.

With the suspect vehicle sometimes passing other vehicles on the right, the westbound pursuit continued for another 35 miles until the suspect vehicle drove into the desert. After the vehicle stopped, the driver bailed on foot. At about 10:30 p.m., law enforcement personnel stopped their search, some four hours after the pursuit originated.

But Cirre wasn't through.

At about 4 p.m. the next day Cirre located the suspect at a local truck stop and arrested him. He also recovered the weapon that was used in the carjacking.

DPS to host law enforcement summit to address illegal immigration issues

Responding to Gov. Janet Napolitano's issuance of an executive order directing DPS to host a law enforcement summit to study and develop proposals to confront mounting illegal immigration issues facing the state, Director Roger Vanderpool and Deputy Director David Felix spent most of June preparing for the one-day conference scheduled for July 12 in Flagstaff.

While signing the executive order June 3, the governor said although the myriad of issues pertaining to illegal immigration mainly rests with the federal government, state and local officials must do more to combat the problems.

Vanderpool shares those thoughts, especially when it comes to undocumented migrants using the Arizona-Mexico border as their collective springboard for illegal entry into the United States.

"In regards to illegal immigration, there's tremendous frustration within the public, not only in Arizona, but throughout the country as well," Vanderpool said. "It's everybody's problem – the feds, state, county and city. We all need to take a step toward the center and find solutions that allow us to address these concerns, keeping in mind that local law enforcement agencies are not federal law enforcement officers with authority to enforce immigration laws.

"Crafting a policy to combat the issues of illegal immigration is a monumental task. Even the president of the United States hasn't been able to get a grasp on this. But, if we are able to craft somewhat of a compromise that not only benefits us, the citizens of Arizona and the law enforcement community as a whole, it might become something followed by the rest of the country."

One idea Vanderpool most likely will introduce at the summit is a proposal that would establish several special teams comprised of DPS officers and agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

"The feds would 'pony' up five or six officers per squad and we would match whatever that number is," the DPS director explained. "Although our officers would have to be trained in immigration law and codes, we have a commitment from the feds that this training would take place in Arizona.

"It's a work in progress, a lump of clay on the potter's wheel. We would establish a test area such as Phoenix and draw a 60-mile circle around that area. These combined units, under a well-defined memo of understanding would only respond to local law enforcement requests such as a DPS officer

stopping a van on I-10 loaded with undocumented immigrants or responding to a newly-discovered stash house at the request of a city police agency."

A 60-mile radius is an arbitrary area Vanderpool said, adding that such an area most likely would allow responding officers to arrive at the scene within an hour.

"A 60-mile radius would allow these squads to respond to events in parts of Pinal, Gila, Maricopa and Yavapai counties," Vanderpool said. "We would use Phoenix as a test site for about six months, then evaluate it. After evaluating the progress of this plan, we might expand it or move it into another area for another six months."

Vanderpool, who will chair the lead panel at the summit, said he certainly understands that DPS officers are not immigration agents nor does he want them to be.

"When processing undocumented immigrants, it is not uncommon for immigration agents and law enforcement officers to find individuals who have outstanding warrants from either Arizona or from someplace else in the United States," the director said. "Federal agents are not peace officers so they cannot place that individual into custody on that warrant. So they end up calling local law enforcement to come and effect the arrest.

"With a special squad comprised of federal immigration and law enforcement officers, the arrest can be made in a much more timely manner."

Vanderpool is hopeful much of the funding for such an endeavor will come from federal sources. As for DPS, he said that the 2006 general budget approved by the legislature this spring includes monies for 12 new officers and two new sergeants. Because the Department also received funding this year for 12 previous unfunded positions, Vanderpool said DPS may have some leeway in helping fund this program which also meets another provision in the executive order directing DPS to, separately, from the summit, determine what the agency can do within its budget to help enforce federal immigration laws.

"We have to do something, we can't continue to say we can't do it and allow the feds to say we don't have the manpower," Vanderpool said. "That's a disservice to the citizens of Arizona. I don't believe we can stand by because the public is crying for something to be done. We need to do something, but we also have to be mindful of our separations of roles."

Letters

Dear Officer (David) McIntee:

I would like to thank you for saving my life.

In March 2004, I was vacationing in Arizona when you pulled me over and ticketed me for extreme DUI. It was the culmination of 38 years of drinking, denial and self destruction. Of course, I had every excuse in the book, but the truth was that I had become a danger to myself and to others.

Since then, I have quit drinking and begun to finally experience life on its own terms. I'm closer to my wife, my daughter and my grandchildren. I've come to understand the importance of my spiritual life, and am able to enjoy friends and my work without feeling like I need to control every thing.

It's been a freeing experience - a process really - that began that night in the Arizona desert.

While I always want to focus on the positive things in my life, I don't want to forget the fear I felt as I faced the logical consequences for what I had done. In AA meetings now, I jokingly talk about getting a life-sized cardboard cutout of you in uniform standing over my bed, so that every morning when I wake up, I remember that I don't want to ever face that again.

Don't get me wrong. You didn't act intimidating or fearsome that night. Quite the contrary. You were professional and courteous. You took action without demeaning me, and made me accountable for my behavior without making me feel ugly as a person. For that, I thank you.

I mentioned to you that night that you and I might be distant family. I believe, somehow, the family circle closed that night, and you were sent to save me from myself, to help a cousin from self destructing and hurting himself, or others.

Thank you for being there and for being so gracious. I owe you my life.

Mike Brian
For Wayne, Ind.

Dear Director Vanderpool:

On Easter Sunday, we were traveling on I-17 and our vehicle had a flat tire. We are elderly and needed help. Officer Mark Villela came to our assistance, changed our tire and soon had us on our way. We truly appreciated his concern and effort in assisting us.

Robert and Betty Stansbury
Surprise

Services held June 17 in Prescott for RMIN training coordinator Kenneth D. Lindley, 56

Kenneth D. Lindley, 56, a DPS officer who retired in 1992, suffered a coronary and passed away June 11 in Prescott Valley.

At the time of his passing, Officer Lindley was living in Show Low and was employed as a training coordinator by the Rocky Mountain Information Network.

The Eugene, Ore., native who was reared in the Prescott area, graduated from Prescott High School in 1967. Shortly after graduating from high school, he, the son of a Prescott police chief, then enlisted in the U.S. Navy, serving in Vietnam.

Upon returning to the states, Officer Lindley began his law enforcement career with the Department in 1972 as badge no. 933.

During his DPS career, Officer Lindley completed a variety of assignments. He also participated in a study that eventually developed a group of "first responders," a team of officers specially trained to cope with acts of violence similar to what occurred during the Morenci copper strike in 1983.

Later, while assigned as a departmental Commercial Vehicle safety specialist, he shot and wounded a suspect who was trying to

wrestle a shotgun from him following a 13-mile, high-speed chase on Interstate 40 that ended near Winslow. In May 1979, the Disabled American Veterans, Tucson chapter, honored the DPS Highway Patrol officer as its officer of the year.

After retiring from DPS in 1992, he joined the Navajo County Sheriff's Office as a training sergeant holding that position until retiring. He then worked for the Motor Vehicle Department and the Arizona Department of Corrections.

Survivors include his wife, Juddie of Show Low; four sons; three daughters; his mother; two sisters; and four grandchildren.

Services were June 17 in Prescott. The family requests memorial donations in Lindley's memory be directed to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Arizona.



KENNETH LINDLEY

No DPS officers, innocent bystanders suffer injuries during bizarre, dangerous pursuit

No DPS Highway Patrol officers or innocent bystanders suffered injuries May 26 during a dangerous and bizarre pursuit.

During the pursuit and ensuing shooting incident, which crisscrossed northwestern Arizona, a volatile male suspect commandeered multiple vehicles and pretended to hold a female passenger of his hostage at gun point.

At one point, the brazen suspect was able to gain access to a DPS Highway Patrol cruiser and use the police vehicle in his desperate and lengthy attempt to allude authorities. The suspect eventually died at Kingman Regional Medical Center as a result of gunshot wounds he suffered late in the pursuit after he pointed a gun at DPS officers and other authorities.

DPS Media Relations Officer Frank Valenzuela said the fatal confrontation occurred about 90 minutes after the suspect drove around a checkpoint at Hoover Dam. The man was able to drive around the checkpoint by traveling northbound in a southbound lane.

After the man drove around the checkpoint, Valenzuela said Hoover Dam police activated electronic metal barricades at the

dam, blocking the roadway. Unable to travel over the dam, the man turned around and proceeded to head south.

A DPS Highway Patrol officer caught up with the vehicle about a mile west of Kingman and boxed the car in.

"At that point, the man stepped out of the vehicle while pointing a gun at a female passenger," Valenzuela said.

Thinking there was a hostage situation, the DPS officer moved away from his vehicle as other officers set up behind him. The man then ran into the unoccupied DPS car with his female passenger and began driving east toward Kingman. Three officers opened fire on the DPS vehicle, shooting the tires.

"The man then pulled into a gas station just inside the Kingman city limit and carjacked a customer's vehicle at gunpoint," Valenzuela said.

After officers flattened one of the vehicle's tires using stop sticks, the man drove head-on into traffic on U.S. 66 and carjacked yet another vehicle at gunpoint.

The man then drove westbound on I-40 in the new vehicle before crossing the me-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

New laws ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

insurance premiums.

By law, the effective date for these statutes, unless otherwise noted, is Aug. 12, 90 days after adjournment of the legislature.

Wilcox said that SB1042, also known as the "meet and confer" law, requires DPS to allow officers the right to form and join employee organizations.

"According to this law, the Department must recognize an organization that is elected by a majority of employees and must meet with its representatives at least once every two years to confer on issues such as hours and terms and conditions of employment but not including wages," Wilcox said.

In addition, Wilcox said the law requires DPS to commit any agreements to writing in a contract. If agreement is not reached, Wilcox said provisions are made for voluntary and non-binding mediation. Any agreement reached is reviewed by the governor who can reject, accept or modify any part.

Wilcox said the governor's decision is binding and that it is illegal for officers to disrupt delivery of services by strike, slow down or "sickout."

Wilcox said SB1113, which changes a time line relating to search warrants, requires that search warrants be executed within five calendar days of issue and returned to a magistrate within three business days of service.

"According to this new law, a magistrate may also extend the time for service a maximum of five additional calendar days," said Wilcox, adding that before this new law was established warrants had to be executed and returned within five days of issue.

Wilcox said that SB1367 allows a member of the Public Safety Retirement System (PSRS) to join DROPS if he or she has been called to active military duty under certain conditions.

"The employee must have 20 years of service in the PSRS and make their DROPS election prior to resuming employment," said Wilcox, adding that the new legislation is retroactive to Jan. 1, 2003.

Wilcox said that SB1254, which doesn't go into effect until Oct. 31, requires peace officers to remove a vehicle and either immobilize it or impound it if it was being driven by a person they arrested for extreme or aggravated DUI or if the driver is under 21 and has been drinking an alcoholic beverage.

"An exception to this law is provided if the spouse of the driver is present, has a valid license, is not impaired by alcohol, and represents to the peace officer that the car will be driven only to the driver's home or to

a place of safety," Wilcox said.

Another new piece of legislation, SB1420, allows a police officer to impound the vehicle of a driver who has never been issued a driver's license by this state or any other jurisdiction. The same legislation requires an officer to remove and impound the vehicle of a driver who is in a crash, does not have insurance and is driving on a suspended, revoked or canceled license.

The Highway Patrol Division at DPS is working to develop the policy strategy to implement both SB 1254 and SB 1420.

Wilcox said a new piece of legislation that has raised some concerns at DPS is HB2621.

This legislation extends a provision re-

lated to health insurance in rural areas that is set to expire on June 30, 2005.

The new legislation extends for two years the provision that allows retirees who live in certain rural areas (those defined as "non-service areas") and who are members of the state's four retirement plans to receive a subsidy for health insurance premiums.

Wilcox said the legislation is a concern because it will only benefit DPS retirees who are currently Medicare eligible.

Wilcox said he is working with the DPS Retirees Coalition and others within the Department to see if the legislation can be changed to also benefit DPS retirees who are not currently Medicare eligible.

DPS Officer Scott Tyman completes 310-mile bicycle trip in honor of all fallen DPS officers

In early May, DPS Officer Scott Tyman completed a 310-mile bicycle trip that made him proud, but one he wished he never had to make.

However, he is glad that he did. It was his way of paying tribute to fallen DPS officers who lost their lives in the line of duty.

Tyman, a recruit training officer at the Arizona Law Enforcement Academy, participated in the 9th annual Police Unity Tour, a four-day bicycle ride that started May 9 at "Ground Zero" in New York City and ended four days later at the National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial, a distance of some 310 miles.

To participate in the event, Tyman was

required to raise \$1500 in pledges with the donations going to the National Law Enforcement Officers' Memorial.

"Having never been to the memorial, I really did not know what to expect," Tyman said. "But the experience can best be summed up by quoting the president of the memorial - 'I am honored to be here, but wish I didn't have to come.'"

On the first day of the event, Tyman said he attended a memorial service at Ground Zero before mounting his bike and riding some 60 miles. The next two days, the participants pedaled some 100 miles each day. On the fourth day, they reached their desti-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

The war on drugs

Old road, same familiar ending for these two suspected drug runners.

While working "old" U.S. 80 near Dateland June 17, Sgt. Don Allen and Officer Raul Vega conducted a traffic stop of a 2003 GMC sports utility vehicle. During the stop the officers uncovered 314 pounds of marijuana which was seized along with the vehicle and \$491 in cash.

The two occupants of the vehicle also were arrested, Vega told the Duty Office.

Speeding on the interstate probably isn't the smartest thing to do, especially when transporting illegal contraband.

Highway Patrol Officer Jay Hutton told the Duty Office that he stopped a 2004 Ford pickup truck for speeding on I-40 near Flagstaff June 16. During the traffic stop, Hutton noticed numerous indicators of narcotics smuggling. A consent search produced 345 pounds of marijuana which was seized along with \$110 in cash.

One suspect was arrested, Hutton said.

A traffic stop for speeding May 30 cost this motorist his car, a cell phone, 4.5 pounds of meth and his freedom.

Highway Patrol Officer Joseph Campbell told the Duty Office that he stopped the 1999 Dodge Stratus on I-40 about 35 miles east of Holbrook. After noticing indicators of drug trafficking, Campbell said he began searching the vehicle and found the contraband stuffed inside a door panel.

Officially, it may be called the sleeper berth. But, for DPS Canine Officer Casey Kasun it was a real eye opener after he found that it contained a lot more cash than some bank vaults.

Kasun said he stopped the 2000 Freightliner tractor for equipment violations May 23 on I-40 near Seligman. After receiving consent to search, Kasun entered the sleeper berth and found \$363,910 in U.S. currency.

After the discovery, Kasun seized the money and the vehicle.

These six suspects, four adults and two teenagers, probably aren't too ecstatic about their immediate future.

While working I-40 near Kingman May 22, Canine Officer Jon Olney stopped a Dodge minivan for speeding. After observing indicators of drug trafficking, Olney began his search, finding some 148,000 ecstasy

pill located throughout the vehicle.

During the course of the stop, Olney learned that the van was also being accompanied by a second vehicle which was later stopped by Highway Patrol Officer Jamie Clark.

After arresting the six, four in the van and two in the passenger car, Olney then seized nearly \$1,000 in cash before arranging for the vehicles to be returned to the proper rental agencies.

The DPS Major Violators Unit I assigned to the Pima County Narcotics Alliance (CNA) culminated a 3-month investigation which resulted in the arrests of five suspects and the seizure of 600 pounds of marijuana.

The May 10 arrests dismantled an organization believed to be responsible for distributing narcotics in Ohio, Michigan and several east coast states. Participating in the investigation and arrests were officers assigned to the Major Violators Unit II, Tucson Police Department, Pima County Sheriff's Office and the CNA Financial Remedies Unit.

One person was arrested on various narcotics-related charges after DPS Officer Dean McMains found 455 pounds of marijuana inside the motorist's 1996 Dodge Caravan.

McMains told the Duty Office that he initiated the May 6 traffic stop for unsafe following distance. The incident took place on I-10 near the junction of I-8.

The Phoenix HIDTA Narcotics Task Force served separate search warrants on several Peoria residences suspected of cultivating hydroponic marijuana.

During the service of the search warrants May 3, Sgt. Greg Zatcoff said officers seized 345 plants and \$20,000 in U.S. currency while arresting two suspects.

Zatcoff told the Duty Office that the estimated street value of the contraband would be in the neighborhood of \$1.3 million.

The use of a GPS tracking device on a vehicle driven by a suspected drug runner proved fruitful following the service of search warrants on three Phoenix residences May 3.

During the service of the warrants, Detective Mike Huggins said officers assigned to the DPS Phoenix Narcotics Squad seized 170 pounds of marijuana, two sports utility vehicles, two passenger vehicles, six handguns, two shotguns, one assault rifle and \$3,150 in cash.

Huggins said two suspects were arrested.

A traffic violation eventually led DPS Highway Patrol Officer Mace Craft to the discovery of five pounds of methamphetamine and to the arrest of two suspects during the April 24 traffic stop.

Craft told the Duty Office that after he stopped the vehicle on I-40 within the Flagstaff city limits, he found the contraband concealed in the fuel tank.

A speeding "roll bed" tow truck with Georgia plates carrying a dune buggy caught the curious eye of DPS Canine Officer John Adams and led to the arrest of two suspects on drug-related charges.

As a result of the northbound traffic stop for speeding on I-17 about five miles south of Flagstaff, Adams sought and received consent to search the two vehicles. During his inspection, the DPS officer found 70 pounds of cocaine concealed within an elaborately-designed false bed of the tow truck.

DPS Sgt. Ron Wigman told area media that prior to the search, Adams had noticed the bolts on the bed near the front appeared to have been recently removed and re-inserted.

Officers found a false bed on top of the original bed and that the two beds were separated with rectangular, tubular steel spaced far enough to place kilos of cocaine between them.

"A cable system had also been installed in order to push and retrieve items all the way down the length of the trailer," Wigman said, adding that the 32 kilos probably would sell on the streets for about \$1.5 million.

Pursuit ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

dian and traveling back through Kingman toward Flagstaff.

When the suspect got on U.S. 93 heading south toward Wikieup, a DPS officer rammed the car twice.

"The man then exited the vehicle and pointed a gun he had taken from the DPS cruiser at police," Valenzuela said.

Officers shot at him multiple times and, after he continued to resist arrest, officers deployed a Taser.

He was eventually taken into custody and transported to Kingman Regional Medical Center where he died a short time later.

Valenzuela said that the suspect's female passenger, who was probably not being held against her will, was also taken to the hospital complaining of respiratory problems. She was eventually arrested after the pursuit on outstanding felony warrants.

Inside DPS

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Denlinger, David M., 2747, Commander

Mitchell, M. Renee, 2750, Office Coordinator

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Bettes, Beverly K., 3619, Administrative Supervisor

Cline, Kim D., 3610, Sergeant

Connors, Marilyn F., 3622, ACJIS Compliance Specialist/Instructor

RETIREMENTS

Annett, Joseph W., 3737, Aircraft Mechanic Supervisor, 19 years

Coughanour, Arthur C., 3131, Publications Editor, 23 years

Resler, Jeffery A., 2735, Commander, 25 years

Gallery, E.G. "Betty," 1516, Executive Assistant, 31 years

PROMOTIONS

Borquez, Peter M., 4031, from Sergeant II to Lieutenant

Bryce, Kirk N., 4398, from Sergeant II to Lieutenant

NEW EMPLOYEES

Benedict, Leslie K., 6533, Support Services Assistant

Breeding, Shane G., 6534, Cadet Officer

Crow, Laura E., 6546, Associate Criminalist

Headley, Jay T., 6535, Cadet Officer

Hopkins, Charlie R., 6536, Cadet Officer

Hopkins, David A., 6537, Cadet Officer

Hurtado, Jose J., 6538, Cadet Officer

Krishnan, Sandy, 6532, Applications Systems Analyst

Lauters, Lynda J., 6547, Supply Specialist

Martens, Norma B., 6545, Special Advisor

Mays, David J., 6539, Cadet Officer

Rael, Angelito R., 6541, Cadet Officer

Roman, Estevan D., 6542, Cadet Officer

Scarbrough, Kevin B., 6544, Telecommunications Specialist

Scurlock, Rodger D., 6548, Criminalist III

TRANSFERS

Borquez, Peter M., 4031, Lieutenant, from Tactical Operations to HP D-6, Casa Grande.

Brevik, David A., 4940, Officer, from HP D-3 Show Low to Navajo-Apache Task Force

Bryce, Kirk N., 4398, Lieutenant, from Flagstaff Task Force to Flagstaff Criminal Investigations.

Bullard, James B., 5595, Officer, from HP Metro Motors to CVSS Central East

Burns, Daniel C., 6273, Officer, from HP D-3 Holbrook to HP D-12 Seligman

Dugan, Amber L., 5639, Research Specialist, from Applicant Clearance Card Team to Rocky Mountain Information Network

Flannery, Robert L., 6048, Officer, from HP D-9 Benson to HP Metro West

Hubert, Melony A., 5774, Executive Assistant, from Records and Identification Bureau Administrative Staff to Criminal Justice Support Division Administrative Staff

Johnson, Jack R., 5367, Sergeant I, from Fugitive Detail to Tactical Operations

Ketron, Lori L., 4253, Officer, from HP Metro East to Advanced Officer Training

Lewis, Jaron A., 6016, Officer, from HP D-11 Payson to HP D-3 Show Low

Menz, Paul J., 6205, Telecommunications Technician, from Special Projects to Central Maintenance

Mortenson, Trent M., 5984, Officer, from HP D-3 Holbrook to HP D-3 Show Low

Porter, Tahlia M., 5842, Administrative Assistant, from Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Bureau Special Projects to Permits

Pritchard, Arthur J., 5441, Officer, from HP D-9 Safford to HP D-3 Heber

Scott, Daniel T., 6286, Officer, from HP D-9 Willcox to HP D-9 Benson

Seifert, Craig A., 6226, Administrative Assistant, from Applicant Clearance Card Team to Logistics Administration

Smart, Robert S., 4014, Sergeant II, from HP D-2 Flagstaff to Flagstaff Task Force

Tillman, Walter S., 1201, Telecommunications Manager, from Engineering to Drafting Services

Volden, Steven R., 2795, Officer, from Media Relations to HP Metro East

Wilcox, Brian, 2797, Lieutenant, from HP D-6 Casa Grande to Government Liaison Section

Wood, Kevin C., 2613, Sergeant I, from GITEM Pima County to Special Investigations Unit

DEPARTURES

Brendel, Sherri A., 5537, Administrative Secretary

Cochran, W. Brian, 6388, Officer

Engel, Edward J., 6222, Supply Specialist

French, Nicholas I., 6012, Officer

McCabe, Roy, 4382, Officer

Tuthill, Dennis W., 6350, Police Communications Dispatcher

Villescas, Robert D., 5716, Admin. Assistant

BIRTHS

Carson Victoria Preston - 10 lbs., 2 oz., 20 inches. Born May 27 at Sgt. Joseph's Hospital, Tucson, to Sgt. Brian Preston and wife Jennifer. Brian is an area Highway Patrol supervisor assigned to District 9, Benson. Grandfather is Sgt. Jeff Mitchell, District 9, Willcox.

Ann Marie Cesolini - 8 lbs., 19 inches. Born June 1 at Havasu Medical Center, Lake Havasu City, to Officer David Cesolini and wife Amy. David is a Highway Patrol officer assigned to Parker.

Shane Leroy Hughes - 7 lbs., 9 oz., 21½ inches. Born June 3 at Arrowhead Community Hospital, Glendale, to Officer Steve Hughes and wife, Janna. Steve is a Highway Patrol officer assigned to Metro West.

OBITUARIES

Charles E. Bottoms, 64, passed away May 19. Mr. Bottoms was the father of Detective John T. Bottoms, Financial Crimes Unit, and Officer Richard G. Bottoms, a Highway Patrol officer assigned to Metro East.

Betty L. Kluender, 79, passed away May 26. Mrs. Kluender was the mother of Doug Kluender, a retired DPS captain.

William Sherrill Wood, 87, passed away June 11. Mr. Wood was the father of Sgt. Sherrill Wood who is assigned to GITEM Maricopa County.

Karen B. Madrid, 61, of Eager, passed away June 11. Mrs. Madrid was the mother of Officer Angie Madrid, a detective assigned to Intelligence.

COP SWAP

For Sale - 50-year AHPA commemorative set. Set No. 494. Consists of Ruger mini .14 rifle, SW .357 magnum handgun; buck knife, patches. \$2100. Contact Ken 623-486-8023.

Bike run ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

nation in the nation's capitol.

"For the final mile or so, the streets were lined with people cheering us on," Tyman said. "When we entered the memorial, family members were standing near the name of their fallen loved one. Some were crying, but all were clapping.

"The two 100-mile days were tough, but when I got tired, I would think of the reason I was doing this, supporting our fallen DPS officers. That helped get me through."

Next year will mark the 10th anniversary of the event.

"I will be there," Tyman promised. "I would like to thank those who made donations to the memorial in sponsorship of my name. I was able to reach the \$1500 goal through the support of my family, DPS employees and friends. Again, thank you."

Yuma County Gathering of the Badges planned

The third annual Yuma County Gathering of the Badges will be Saturday, Oct. 29, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., at the Yuma County Fairgrounds.

Sponsoring the "Gathering," will be the Select Council on Progressive Enforcement (SCOPE), an area group consisting of law enforcement representatives who assist in coordinating law enforcement activities within Yuma County.

"Even though the event was initially established to honor all retired officers who have worked or working in Yuma County, we invite all active law enforcement officers to attend as well," said Sherry Zimmerman of the Yuma County Sheriff's Office.

Zimmerman, event coordinator, said a barbecue dinner starts at 3:30 p.m.

"The cost is \$10 per person and we are requesting tickets be purchased in advance," Zimmerman said.

She said checks should be made payable to SCOPE and mailed to the Yuma County Sheriff's Office, 141 S. Third Ave., Yuma, AZ 85364 - Attention Sherry Zimmerman or Gretchen Thomas.

For additional information, contact Zimmerman at 928-539-7863. She can be e-mailed at sherry.zimmerman@co.yuma.az.us. Thomas can be contacted at 928-539-7824 or via e-mail at gretchen.thomas@co.yuma.az.us.

DPS radio site experiences break-in

A break-in of a DPS radio site northeast of Douglas May 7 provided for some interesting moments at the Department.

The incident began to unfold at about 1:45 p.m. when an entry alarm for the Bernardino Peak radio tower site in southeastern Arizona was activated. A short time later, DPS Security in Phoenix telephoned the site and surprisingly, the call was answered by an undocumented immigrant.

The man answering the phone informed Security that he was among 10 illegal entrants who had been without food for six days and lost for three.

The Duty Office reported that District 9 Sgt. Daniel Long responded to the scene along with personnel from the Cochise County Sheriff's Office and the U.S. Border Patrol. The Border Patrol processed the illegals while Long made arrangements to secure the site until the damaged door and frame could be repaired.



Who Is she?

She wasn't taller than a door knob and perhaps a little bit leery of her first Communion. But today, she's much more confident and quite often a white "gown" is her wardrobe for the day.

Who is this civilian employee?

Correctly identify her and you will be eligible to win a DPS polo shirt courtesy of the Associated Highway Patrolmen of Arizona (AHPA).

Interdepartmental e-mail entries should be addressed to Jim Jertson, badge number 5609. Internet entries should be sent to jjertson@azdps.gov. Interdepartmental mail should go to *The Digest*, P.O. Box 6638, Phoenix, AZ 85005.

May contest

Only two people correctly identified Linda Mendyka as the little girl by the pool. Mary Curfman, an administrative assistant assigned to Grants, was awarded the AHPA donated-shirt by virtue of a drawing.

DPS at a Glance

DPS Lt. Larry Burns' "amazing" recovery from injuries suffered in a bicycle crash four years ago was featured in *The Arizona Republic* June 14.

Burns suffered severe head injuries, a broken arm and leg when the bicycle he was riding wobbled and crashed at a high speed. The article dealt with Burns' injuries, his determination to return to training and racing despite near fatal injuries and his participation in last month's Race Across America bicycle event.

For those visiting Bank One Ballpark, there may be some familiar faces in the restrooms promoting traffic safety messages pertaining to seat belts and drinking drivers.

Media Relations Sgt. Faith Morgan arranged to have the posters produced and then placed inside the ballpark restrooms, both women's and men's.

The posters feature the Diamondbacks' Craig Counsell and Luis Gonzalez along with several DPS officers.

Ever wonder what happened to those 32 alligators DPS Officer Glen Swavely found and seized during a traffic stop last April near Casa Grande?

The alligators are being housed at the non-profit Phoenix Herpetological Society until permanent homes can be found.

Knowing that such care can be costly, the Desert Gators – a Phoenix-area University of Florida alumni group – got into the Samaritan act recently by rounding up 200 pounds of food, mostly chicken, for the reptiles.

The group also is planning several other fund raisers.

DPS personnel assisted the Yuma Police Department and the U.S. Marine Corp with an evacuation effort that was implemented after a Marine Harrier jet, carrying four "live" 500-pound bombs, crashed into a Yuma neighborhood June 15.

Miraculously, no one was seriously injured or killed in the incident which occurred near Yuma's Marine Corp Air Station.

During the tense situation, DPS officers manned traffic control points until military officials were able to defuse and remove the bombs. Nearly 1,300 homes were evacuated while a military explosives team dismantled and removed the bombs from the crash site.

The cause of the crash, which forced the evacuation, is under investigation.

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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Down the Highways

July 1970

The speed limit on I-10, between Phoenix and Tucson, will increase from 70 mph to 75 mph in mid August, an Arizona Department of Transportation official announced July 27 in *The Arizona Republic*.

DPS narcotics agents harvested a lush crop of about 5,000 marijuana plants July 21 in the backyard of a Tucson woman's home.

DPS Lt. Dennis Dierking said the illegal operation would have produced about 400 pounds of marijuana. Dierking said the tops of the plants were trimmed at about the 5-foot level, the height of a wooden fence protecting the 55- by 75-foot backyard marijuana spread.

July 1975

Ten people were killed the afternoon of July 3 in a head-on collision on State Route 98, about 50 miles southeast of Page. All 10 were residents of the Navajo Reservation.

DPS Highway Patrol Officer Andy Charnoki, the first officer at the scene, said the crash occurred when a pickup truck crossed the center line and struck an oncoming car head on. Charnoki said that after the crash, the truck came to rest atop the car.

Two Phoenix men were arrested July 24 after they delivered 13,000 amphetamine tablets to undercover DPS agents. Investigators said the two were arrested at the suspects' home in Central Phoenix. Preliminary tests on the tablets by DPS criminalists showed no trace of strychnine. DPS investigators said many of the "mini-bennies" being sold in Arizona had been contaminated

with the poison.

July 1980

Faced with the threat of a cut in federal highway funds, DPS highway patrol officers will strictly enforce the 55-mph speed limit on Arizona's highways, Director Ralph Milstead told the Phoenix Nucleus Club July 25.

Milstead, into his fifth month as DPS chief, predicted the state will not meet federal standards for compliance with the controversial speed limit. He said Arizona has a 37-percent compliance record during the current federal fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30, and will not reach the mandated 40-percent figure.

July 1985

A Utah truck driver faces six possible charges of negligent homicide in connection with a fiery crash at an I-17 construction site that killed six members of a vacationing Wisconsin family on July 24.

The driver was booked into the Yavapai County Jail in Prescott following the crash about 40 miles south of Flagstaff. DPS Sgt. Allan Schmidt said the driver told investigators that his truck's brakes failed before it slammed into the Wisconsin vehicle, causing it to burst into flames while pushing it into another truck.

The victims' vehicle was stopped at the construction site when it was rear-ended by the semi.

A California truck driver was arrested by DPS Highway Patrol Officer Brian Leduc July 10 after a nude woman jumped from the suspect's tractor-trailer rig and ran to the DPS

officer claiming that she had been kidnapped and sexually abused.

Leduc stopped the truck south of Tempe and was writing a warning for a faulty headlight when the 43-year-old Apache Junction woman jumped out of the truck's cab. The woman told the DPS officer that she was kidnapped at knife point and was forced to perform sexual acts while the trucker drove south on I-10. The suspect was arrested without incident.

July 1990

An off-duty DPS officer suffered minor wounds when shot July 5 while working on his patrol car outside his Surprise home.

A Phoenix newspaper said Chris Romero dodged up to five gunshots that apparently came from a nearby apartment complex northwest of his house on West Greenway Road. Investigators said one shot hit a tree just above Romero's head while others fell in a field. Officers searched unsuccessfully for the shooter.

July 1995

DPS Sergeant Michael L. Crowe was shot to death July 4 along with Yuma Police Department Lt. Dan Elkins after they arrived at the Southwest Border Alliance headquarters building near the Yuma International Airport.

The two were members of the SBA task force and had agreed to meet at the building to discuss missing items from the SBA property room. When they entered the building, they stumbled upon a burglary in progress and were shot by the intruder.

Yuma police arrested Jack R. Hudson, 36, a Yuma County Sheriff's Office deputy, as a suspect in the double murder.